

Public Hearing: December 12, 2005

## **F A C T   S H E E T**

**TITLE:** Resolution to Recognize the Cardwell Branch Floodprone Areas as Best Available Information

**SPONSOR:** Public Works & Utilities

**OPPONENTS:** Unknown

**OTHER DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED:**  
Building and Safety  
Planning

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** For

**APPLICANT:** Public Works & Utilities

**REASON FOR LEGISLATION:**

To formally recognize the Cardwell Branch 100-year Floodprone Areas and revised Floodway as the best available information for local flood regulation purposes.

## **D I S C U S S I O N**

This is a resolution to formally recognize the floodprone areas of Cardwell Branch (downstream of Yankee Hill Lake) and its south tributary, as shown on the attached map, as the best available information for local regulatory purposes, in conformance with the Flood Standards for New Growth Areas adopted by the City Council on May 10, 2004. The Flood Standards include the regulation of floodprone areas “as determined by hydrologic and hydraulic studies completed by the City of Lincoln or other governmental agency, or other acceptable source as approved by the City where this is the best available information.”

### ***Technical Study***

The City, as a Cooperating Technical Partner with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), contracted with the United States Geological Survey to develop revised floodplain mapping for Cardwell Branch. This technical study was undertaken as a major component of the proposed Cardwell Branch Watershed Master Plan, which is a cooperative effort of the City and the Lower Platte South NRD. The technical floodplain study component has been completed, certified by a licensed engineer, and is being reviewed by FEMA. The study has been completed in compliance with FEMA’s Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners.

### ***Updated Flood Maps***

Currently, there are approximately 12 stream miles downstream of Yankee Hill Lake in the Cardwell Branch watershed which have a FEMA-mapped floodplain, of which only 5 miles have detailed mapping with flood elevations. The detailed study provides up-to-date flood boundaries and flood elevations for all 12 stream miles. This resolution indicates that the Cardwell Branch floodprone areas and revised floodway will be utilized as the best available information in any circumstance where this information is more restrictive than the FEMA floodplain or floodway, until such time as the revised FEMA floodplain map is finalized and adopted.

### ***Public Information***

Draft floodplain/floodprone area maps for Cardwell Branch and its tributary were made available for viewing at three public open houses that were held on November 30, 2004; March 24, 2005; and August 24, 2005. In addition, City and/or USGS staff met with the Cardwell Woods Homeowners Association on December 13, 2004 and May 9, 2005. The maps and computer models were made

publicly available upon request on July 22, 2005. Approximately 550 notices were mailed to local area property owners as well as to over 400 engineers, developers, governmental agencies, conservation groups and others for each meeting.

***Conclusion***

Finalization and adoption of the revised FEMA floodplain maps is anticipated to take anywhere from 1-2 years. In the meantime, it is appropriate for the community to utilize the best technical information regarding flood hazards along Cardwell Branch and the south tributary to protect future homes and businesses and to insure that any development in the floodprone areas conforms with the Flood Standards for New Growth Areas.

**POLICY OR PROGRAM CHANGE:** No. This resolution conforms with the Flood Standards for New Growth Areas adopted by the City Council in May 2004.

**COST OF TOTAL PROJECT:** None.

**FACT SHEET PREPARED BY:** John Callen, Associate Engineer

**REVIEWED BY:** Karl Fredrickson, Director of Public Works/Utilities